

June 11, 1969

Dear Donald Peterson:

Your letter of May 27 addressed to the Alumni Fund Office has been given to me and I have delayed answering it because of the activities of Alumni weekend and commencement. Alumni weekend at Swarthmore was one of the largest we have ever had - close to 700 attending the dinner - and commencement was one of our best.

First, let me say that all of us at Swarthmore are united in believing that the Admissions Office sit-in by our Afro-American students was unrepresentative of "Swarthmore's way". Force, however orderly, is antithetical to the reasonable methods that Swarthmore has always stood for. Our present conviction is that we must find ways to avoid so-called direct action by any group for any purpose in the future.

It is hard to express all parts of so complex a situation but several impressions stand out. The College stayed peaceful and constructive and the Faculty, with the students, acted in reflection on problems which the Faculty had already identified and set for itself. They acted in conscience as they always have. Individuals kept their heads and stayed fair, and yes, harmonious despite many disagreements.

Courtney Smith in one of his last talks to the student body said "Swarthmore had lost something precious". I personally wish he had gone on to say that we could gain something more precious as strength in our educational program and could contribute something to social justice if we all worked things out in an orderly and constructive way. In these times we need to do both. I am quite sure that all of us who lived and worked through this are stronger individuals now than we were last December.

No one can deny that there may be many problems ahead but to my mind, we have met them in a way that shows that the College has quality and steadiness. Let's hope this will continue. However, if it is to continue and Swarthmore is to maintain its leadership in higher education, we will

need not only the help of the Board of Managers, the Faculty,
administration, parents, students but alumni as well.

We appreciate your letter and the active
part you have played in supporting the College in the past.
You should always feel free to express your views but I hope
we can count on you for your constructive assistance.

My best wishes to you.

Truly yours,

Joseph B. Shane
Vice President

Mr. Donald Peterson
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all copies via F.O.